

The birth of the western campus of the Montgomery County Community College will, in part, be the sparkplug for a renaissance for Pottstown to achieve new heights. The mayor of Pottstown, borough council, borough manager, State representative Robert Reber, State senator James Gerlach, the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, the Pottstown Mercury, Pottstown civic and fraternal groups, and the residents of Pottstown deserve a great deal of credit for putting Pottstown on top and helping to make the dream of the new college campus a reality.

Finally, we applaud those who never stopped working toward our goal of establishing this great new college campus in Pottstown. Your perseverance inspired the entire community to work together for the greater good.

LEGISLATION TO PRESERVE GREAT FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT IN PATERSON, NJ

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation which includes the Preservation of the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, NJ—a city in my congressional district.

During the 103d Congress my predecessor, Representative Herb Klein, introduced the Great Falls Preservation and Redevelopment Act of 1994. The House of Representatives passed on April 13, 1994. However, this bill failed in the U.S. Senate at the end of the 103d Congress. Unfortunately, a Democratic Congress with a Democratic President was unable to accomplish this important preservation.

At the beginning of the 104th Congress, Senator LAUTENBERG introduced S. 188, the Great Falls Preservation and Redevelopment Act. As the representative for the Paterson area, it was my responsibility to fight, on the House-side, to make sure the Great Falls language was included in this package.

After all, it is reported that Alexander Hamilton and George Washington, while traveling to the Dey Mansion in Wayne, NJ, stopped and viewed the Great Falls and were extremely impressed by the power it generated. Inspired by this source of energy, Hamilton envisioned the Great Falls area as a manufacturing mecca that would free the United States from dependency on foreign manufactured goods.

In 1791, with the founding of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufacturers [SUM] by Hamilton and the development of a raceway system designed to harness the power of the river, America began to demonstrate the profitability of manufacturing on its own soil.

Through tremendous support from the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey Legislature, Paterson established itself as the country's first manufacturing center which led to the evolution and development of the United States as an industrial nation. The energy source of Great Falls was the magnet that created the idea of Paterson, NJ, and it was the entrepreneurs and the people of the area that made the city an industrial powerhouse. Great Falls and the surrounding community are a

testament to American ingenuity and the great dream that so many have come to the United States to pursue.

At the beginning of my term I went on record stating that if the Senate acted on the Great Falls legislation, which they had failed to do in the past, "I would shepherd it through the House." As such, I worked in close contact with the Resources Committee to secure this preservation and redevelopment language. A May 20, 1996, response from Chairman DON YOUNG to my May 14, 1996, letter indicated that he had "serious reservations" over the "appropriateness" of Federal involvement given budget restraints and questions of vagueness in the provision's legislative language.

The language incorporated into this bill properly corrects the Chairman's concerns by allowing the Department of Interior to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements with the State of New Jersey, local governments, or private nonprofit organizations to develop resources within the Great Falls Historic District. Whether a private or public cooperative venture, the Department of Interior would shoulder only 50 percent of the costs. The provision would authorize \$250,000 for grants and cooperative agreements for the development plan, \$50,000 for technical assistance, and \$3 million to implement development projects.

I would like to thank the Chairman for his work on Great Falls' behalf, as well as thank Mr. Norm Robertson, a Passaic County Freeholder and former president of the Passaic County Historical Society who has worked diligently toward this end. Through the realization that specific projects should be sited to ensure that Federal redevelopment money goes directly to the brick and mortar projects that the district desperately needs, we have accomplished an agreeable solution and practiced good government.

Passage of this bill represents yet another great accomplishment of the 104th Congress. While others tried in the past to protect Paterson's heritage, this Congress clearly gives our Nation's history the respect it deserves.

COMMANDER RICHARD W. JONES

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize and commend Commander (select) Richard W. Jones for his outstanding service and impressive accomplishments as commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Center in Duluth, MN.

During his tenure, Commander Jones increased the readiness capability of his assigned reserve units and his units provided substantial support to the active U.S. Navy. Commander Jones designed and established a metal working shop and a computer repair shop; as a result, his personnel are better trained, and the products they produce are shipped to active duty ships.

I am most impressed with the dedicated commitment of Commander Jones to improve the quality of life for the sailors and officers assigned to the Naval Reserve Center Duluth.

He funded, partially at his own expense, a weight lifting gymnasium for use for all members, and his leadership, through example, bolstered the health and fitness awareness at the NRC Duluth. As a result of his leadership to improve the facilities at the reserve center, the morale of reservists and staff is at an all-time high.

These achievements have not gone unnoticed. The Naval Reserve Center Duluth earned the Sidney Fields Trophy from the Naval Reserve Association this past January as the Nation's best reserve center.

I am very pleased to commend Commander (select) Richard W. Jones for his significant contributions to the Naval Reserve Center Duluth and his superb service to the people of northern Minnesota.

THE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY HERITAGE CORRIDOR

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to offer my full support for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor which is being reauthorized by the House.

The legislation today expands the size and scope of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor to four new communities which share the historical and environmental history of the 20 cities and towns already located within the existing corridor boundaries. The reason for this expansion is simple. The program is extremely successful and will bring economic revitalization, as well as expand a growing sense of pride, to thousands of people in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The new areas also add to the wholeness of the valley, encompassing critical watershed lands and historical connections, like Burrillville's well-preserved mill villages and Smithfield's apple orchards.

Authorized as a National Heritage area in 1986, the corridor has successfully served as a national model for economic revitalization through historic preservation. The program took on national significance because of its unique ability to capture and preserve many of the 18th and 19th century industrial innovations which have developed along the Blackstone River.

In fact, it was along this river that the widespread industrial use of water power in the United States was first developed at Samuel Slater's Mill in Pawtucket in 1790. The mill, which still stands today, has become an icon of the American Industrial Revolution and a main point of attraction for visitors to the Blackstone Valley. To be sure, it was in the Blackstone River Valley that America began its transformation from an agrarian to industrialized nation.

Unfortunately, with many of the manufacturing mills long gone, the region has had to readjust its economic focus. The establishment of the Heritage Corridor has served as a primary force behind the redevelopment of a region faced with hard economic times. By building on the historic qualities and vast natural resources of the Blackstone Valley, the National Heritage Corridor has inspired the